

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents are requested to write briefly and to the point. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications.]

Robert W. Shufeldt, 3d.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE AUK:—

*Dear Sirs:*—At a recent session of the Faculty of Marietta College the following minute was adopted:—

“It is with a deep sense of personal loss that the Faculty of Marietta College extend heartfelt sympathy to Dr. R. W. Shufeldt and his family in view of their great bereavement in the death of Robert W. Shufeldt, 3d. who for six months has been connected with Marietta Academy as a student and with Marietta College as taxidermist and collector for the Natural History Museum. The Faculty wish to put on record their high estimate of his character and his work. His sudden death by drowning, July 11, 1892, while on an ornithological expedition, has taken from the scientific world an ambitious young scientist of unusual promise. It gives us great pleasure to accept from Dr. R. W. Shufeldt of Takoma Park, D. C., the private ornithological collection of his son in whose memory it shall be preserved in the College Museum as ‘The Shufeldt collection.’”

By order of the Faculty,

T. F. MCKENNEY, *Secretary.*”

Permit me to add a few personal reminiscences of Mr. Robert Shufeldt with whom it was my privilege to work in ‘The Marietta Scientific Association,’ in the College Museum and in the field. He was a young man well fitted for the work to which he was determined to give his life. I do not remember ever seeing a man so young who had so definitely in mind just what he wanted to make a life work. He eagerly grasped at every opportunity that would assist him in his chosen calling. He was invited to come to Marietta College last January to assist in putting the ornithological collection of the college into shape and, by giving to this work his leisure, to win his own way to a thorough collegiate education. His strong will power induced him to endeavor to abridge the preparatory course by extra study, and he would have succeeded. He entered upon his scientific work with alacrity and in a short time has brought order out of chaos in the Museum. During these few months the collection of birds trebled in size, and as the summer vacation came on we were preparing to do extensive work in the field. Our object was to secure adequate specimens of every object of natural history, within the radius of one hundred miles around Marietta, as a basis for larger collections through gift and exchange. Mr. Shufeldt entered most intelligently and successfully into the plan and in the end would have become a specialist in this region of the country.

His sudden death, however, has cut short a career of the greatest promise. When news came to Marietta that he was drowned at the head of Kerr Island in the Ohio, just below the dam on the West Virginia side, there was great excitement; several boats started immediately for the scene of the accident and later a large company started for the place in a chartered steamboat. It was the old story of a treacherous hole in the river-bottom, inability to swim, and no one near to help. The remains were taken to Takoma Park, D. C., by Professor David H. Jones, Associate Principal of Marietta Academy. They were laid at rest beside the grave of his mother in the Rock Creek Cemetery near Washington. The Trustees and the Faculty of the College join with the large circle of friends in expressions of deepest sympathy with Dr. Shufeldt and his family. The College hopes by the aid of friends to make 'The Shufeldt Collection' an enduring monument to the brilliant young ornithologist.

Robert W. Shufeldt, Jr., was born on the 7th of June, 1877, at Omaha, Nebraska. He received his scientific training from his father, Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, who is well known to the scientific world as a specialist in ornithology. What is the loss of Dr. Shufeldt is the common loss of us all and especially of American science in the years to come.

Very respectfully yours,

HENRY WOODWARD HULBERT.

*Marietta College*, July 20, 1892.

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. HERMANN BURMEISTER, a Corresponding Member of the A. O. U., died at Buenos Ayres May 1, 1891, in his eighty-sixth year, he having been born at Stralsund, Germany, Jan. 15, 1807. He was educated at Greifswald and Halle, and for a time was professor of zoölogy in the University of Halle, succeeding the ornithologist Nitzsch. He was a prominent actor, siding with the 'Liberals,' in the political troubles of 1849-50, and in consequence was obliged to leave Germany. He traveled for some time in Brazil, and though visiting Europe for short intervals on two or three occasions, spent most of his life in South America. He finally settled in Buenos Ayres, where he founded the well-known National Museum of Natural History, of which he was made Director in 1861, and in 1870 became the head of the faculty of science in the University of Cordoba. His writings cover a wide field, his earlier work relating mainly to entomology, but later he wrote many papers and works pertaining to physical geography and vertebrate palæontology and zoölogy. Some years since he met with an accident which made it necessary for him to resign his position as Director, "and the community, by which his services were highly appreciated, took care that he was properly pensioned. He was buried at the cost of the State, and the President was present at his funeral."

Dr. Burmeister was the editor of Nitzsch's 'Pterolographie,' published in 1840, and was the author of a 'Systematische Uebersichte der Thiere Bra-